

no resonance Raman spectra that interfere with the resonance Raman spectra of said microorganism; and

(c) comparing said induced spectrum of step (b) with said characteristic spectrum to detect the presence of said microorganism in said sample, the sample having at least 200 fold antibodies[y molecules] in excess of target antigen.

12. (Amended) A system for the detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in a sample, said microorganism having a characteristic resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength between 242-257 nm, comprising:

(a) means for contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase immobilized antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said microorganism on said solid phase, said antibodies emitting essentially no resonance Raman spectra that interfere with the resonance Raman spectra of said microorganism when irradiated with a laser light of 242-257 nm;

(b) means for irradiating the solid phase of step (a) with a laser light of 242-257 nm to produce a resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy spectrum; and

(c) means for comparing said induced spectrum of step (b) with said characteristic spectrum to detect the presence of said microorganism in said sample.

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 16, 2000 has been received and the comments of the Examiner carefully considered.